



Teaching at the C&T College

James Switzer

It was the summer of 1965, and I was finishing my master's degree in English at Kent State University, hoping to find a university teaching job for September. The first place I looked was Kent, where they were just starting a PhD program in English and no longer hiring instructors. As such, they said I could have a teaching assistantship and start on my next degree, but that's not what I wanted. I wanted to teach full time, save money, then study full time for the PhD, avoiding the assistantship route, so it was, "Thanks, but no thanks."

I called Frank Phipps, the director of Freshman Composition at my hometown school, then still the municipal

University of Akron. No instructorships were available in the English Department, but the Community and Technical College had opened the previous year and there were jobs there for people with master's degrees. After my interview, I was hired to teach half-time in the English Department and half-time in the C&T.